

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 21. 1710.

I Have been upon the Affair of the Mobb; and tho' you may think me long, Gentlemen. I cannot but tell you, I shall be yet longer: The Project was long in Brooding; and pray give me leave to give you a brief Original of this late Monstrous Birth.

FACTION, an undescrib'd Monster, well-plac'd among the Non-Naturals of the State—Strouling about the Nation, starving and abandon'd, *cast off* even by Popery her self—*weary'd* with the Drudgery of Jacobitism, for both which she had long wrought without Wages, and resolved to take up with any thing she could meet with Uglier than her self, had ply'd like a Street-Harlot for some Body to prostitute her deform'd Carcass to: *But in vain*, she had formerly laid claim to the Whiggs,

and many a Slander they have lain under, for being but seen in her Company——But these resolved at once to expose her, and clear themselves——Had recourse to Foreign Aid, and bringing over one King *REVOLUTION* to be their Head; they Crown'd him by the Title of *William The Glorious*——And Establishing his dear Favourite *CONSTITUTION*. From her has been produced by a kind of *Self-Generation*, that bright and most beautiful thing call'd *Legal Governments*. To this, the Whiggs having a natural Propensity, both by Principle and Interest, are by the same Force of Nature constantly Loyal, and when they cease to be so, they must cease to be Whiggs, that is, *True British Protestants*.

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This fatal Blow brought the Monster *Faction* to the utmost Despair, and wandering about, as above, abandon'd and disconsolate, she met with a Midnight Child of Hell, call'd a *High-Flyer*; Her Condition being, as I said before, Desperate, and the darkness of the Night hiding his more shapeless, disproportion'd and unnatural Figure from her——Concluding he must be the Devil, if he was worse than her self, she willingly fell in with him, and this League in the Dark was soon made up between them.

Authors say, That in the Morning-light, when she saw a Creature so *Unlick'd*, so without Shape, *sine* Head, *sine* Tail, *sine* Hope, *sine* Prospect; she was for leaving him again, as being surpriz'd to see a thing ten times more *Devil-like* than her self;——But whether she lik'd her Cully, it is evident he lik'd his *Filt*, and she at present not knowing how to mend her self, stay'd with him; till Time discovering them better to one another, they soon found such Sympathy, such Sameness of Design; such Harmony in Mischief, such perfect Unison in Hypocrisy, and such a Concurrence of all the most exquisite Qualifications, necessary to a compleat Devil, that they made a full Conjunction of their incarnate Substance,——and became Incorporated into one another.——

Hence *High-Flying* and *Faction* are now become Identical in Parts, Synonymous in Terms, and Undividable in Interest. To be a *High-Flyer*, is to be *Factionous* by Nature; to be *Factionous*, is to be a *High-Flyer* by Consequence, and to say a *Factionous* *High-Flyer*, is a Tautology in Speech, and only repeats the same thing; to say a *High-Flyer* is *Factionous*, is to say nothing, 'tis to say a *High-Flyer* is a *High-Flyer*, and they are no more like one another at all, for they are the very same Numerically and Essentially.

This Conglutinated, Encorporated, Nameless Mask of Mischief, is as particular in its Qualities, as it is in its Shape. It has this peculiar, 'tis always a Subject, yet always disquieting its Sovereign,——It has all the Snakes of *Old Europe* crawling

about its Head, but no Teeth to bite; it breaths Fire, but that Fire is an *Ignis Fatuus*, that has no Heat, and cannot burn——It has dreadful Paws to look at, when you see it at a distance, but when you look nearer there are no Talons——as it is disproportion'd in Shapes, so 'tis inconsistent, and incoherent in Parts; it has a terrible Aspect, but no Heart; it threatens Death, but has no Hands; it fawns like a Monkey, but cannot Smile, yet has it all imaginable Aid to Mischief, from its kindred to the Devil,——In Publick it takes Oaths to the Government, and Curses that Government it swears to; it Abjures the Pretender, and then drinks his Health upon its Knees; it can stir up Rebellion, and preach Non-Resistance; it goes cloath'd in the Robes of the Church, but Damns all her Bishops for Presbyterians——It will call God to Witness in the most solemn Manner, that it is for Tenderness to Conscientious Dissenters; yet it will tell you from the Pulpit, That *whoever Dissents from the Church, is a Traitor to the State*. It will protest and appeal to GOD that searches the Heart, that he is for the Act of Exemption, (Toleration) of Dissenters from Penal-Laws, yet he leaves them with the Devil and his Angels——It will flatter the QUEEN in the most fulsome Manner, in long studied Harrangues, and yet unhinge that very Constitution that has Crown'd Her.

From this Incorporated Hermaphrodite, by Unnatural, and yet *as to Causes*, most necessary Generation, a numerous Offspring has proceeded; begotten and born of its self, and Midwif'd into the World by the hellish Warmth of its own fermented Putrefaction: And not to trouble you with the Names of the Children and Grand-Children of this strange new-fashion'd Creature, some of which are Monstrous like the Parent, I must acquaint you, that the Monster teeming lately upon the Occasion of Dr. *Sacheverell's* Disaster, Miscarried——and brought forth an *Embryo* conceiv'd by halves, horn in haste, that just liv'd to Hiss and Grin, to denote its true Original, and then Dy'd.

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Had the half-born Monster liv'd, and been full grown; had it come to the Birth in its full Time and Maturity, it would have been call'd *HYDRA*, a Name of Multitude—all the imperfect, unfinish'd Parts of it being visible; such as its Thousands Heads, and ten Thousand Horns; its Tail which threw Dirt and Darts, and its Teeth Poysonous: It discover'd, that if it had liv'd, its Food would have been Flesh and its Drink Blood, its Delight Rapin, and its Ambition Universal Confusion— But it liv'd, thanks be to Heaven — *not to Dr. Sacheverell*— but a few Hours; and from its sudden Appearance and early Death, was called *MOBB*, after the ancient Original Name of the Family.

I could have given you a larger Genealogy of its Ancestors—for there have been *Mobbs* born into the World before. But as something more went to the Composition of this Monster, than was ever requir'd in the usual Generation of the like Species, so it seem'd to me only necessary to acquaint you, how such a strange Production came to be just now brought forth more particularly, than at any time before; it being in a Reign, and under a Constitution, that left the least Room for any such unnatural Production of any this Nation has been under, since it had a Name—and this, I supposed, must naturally lead People to enquire after its heliish Original.

MISCELLANEA.

FROM our Office lately Erected, for Licensing such Evils in the Nation, as cannot otherwise be redressed.

Sundry People have apply'd themselves to the Office, for Licenses to carry on some particular Methods in Commerce, not in themselves very allowable, and we are now in Treaty with them—and hope it may in a short Time be brought to a Conclusion.

The *S. P. Q. L.* have sent a Deputation to the Office, to obtain a License for picking Pockets by colour of Law, under the Modern Title of *going a Birding*.

The Society have had several Meetings with them about it, and no Conclusion has yet been made: But 'tis hoped it may be amicably finish'd against next *Midsummer-day*; so that the City may not be at any Loss as to Sheriffs, and yet a decent Sum of Money be catch'd *where it is to be had*, for the Use and Behoof of the Honourable, Right Honourable, Worshipful, &c.

The *Mine-Adventure* Company having been in some needful Circumstances, relating to fine Management, &c. a certain Gentleman has been with the Society several times, for some of their new Fashioned Authority.

The first Demand was 'so Gross, the Society could not tell what to think of it; for the Person sent Demands, a Plenipotentiary Authority, to turn real Lead into imaginary Silver; to form Airy Funds, make Settlements and Assurances, and borrow Money on them, from Widows, Orphans, and Innocent, but Credulous Persons; and then Cause those Funds, Settlements and Assurances to pass a fiery Tryal, Refining, Calcining, and then Evaporating them, till neither the Loan, the Fund, the Settlement, or the Assurance can be heard of any more.

He enquir'd also, if Licenses might be had for some other little Frauds; such as forging Writings, cancelling Securities, counterfeiting Defences, For-swearing and Back-swearing—but the Society not having come to a full Length, could not treat upon these Heads.

Besides, they were not willing to enter immediately upon those Articles, till the Parliament was up; since those things having been laid before the House, there is some hope, that the Commons may settle the Rates of these and other Practices of the Worshipful Company, to the general Satisfaction.

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